

IT LOOKS DARK FOR THEM

Case of Arson Against J. S. Luce and His Foreman.

NO EVIDENCE FOR DEFENSE

Testimony Gathered by Detective McSweeney by Request of Fire Underwriters—R. W. Luce His Son's Bondsman—Bateman Goes to Jail.

John S. Luce, manager of the Scranton Knitting company, and William G. Bateman, foreman of the company, were yesterday afternoon given a hearing on the charge of having, on Oct. 22, set fire to the building at Penn avenue and Mulberry street. The hearing took place in the police court room before Alderman Fuller, who committed each of the defendants to jail to answer the charge at court. Arson not being a bailable offense, before an alderman, Luce after the hearing furnished bail before Judge Archbald at the latter's residence. R. W. Luce, the defendant's father, qualified as bondsman in the sum of \$2,000.

Many spectators were attracted by the case owing to the prominence of Mr. Luce among the younger business element of the city and the gravity of the charge against him. He was represented by Attorneys George S. Horn and M. J. Wilson; Major Warren, another of Mr. Luce's counsel, was absent owing to illness. John F. Scragg was Mr. Bateman's attorney, and Joseph O'Brien conducted the prosecution for Detectives McSweeney and Barrin, representing the Board of Fire Underwriters, and City Solicitor Torrey was present in the interest of the city, although he took no active part in the proceedings.

Case Against the Accused. From 2.30 until nearly 6 o'clock the prosecution presented a strong case of circumstantial evidence secured through the efforts of the detective agency. The most damaging testimony was given by Detective McSweeney himself, which was particularly his conversation with Bateman the day after the arrests. Attorney Horn subjected all the witnesses to a severe cross-examination in the interest of Luce, but it was a noticeable fact that Mr. Scragg refrained from asking more than an occasional question in the interest of Bateman. The testimony did not appear to seriously implicate the latter and Mr. Scragg's policy of not questioning the witnesses would indicate that he will conduct an independent case for his client.

No evidence in defense was offered by the attorneys of either defendant. Chief of the Fire Department Ferber, Foreman Newman, H. R. Long and William Ferber, of Crystal Hose company, and Thomas Condon, of Hook and Ladder company, testified to the location of several blazes and piles of waste found on the second, third and top floor of the building.

Anthony Howley, of Howley Bros., heard a noise on the back stairs at 7.40 o'clock and went to the floor above to investigate. Found Luce there; seemed to be excited. Went home at 8.15 o'clock and returned to store when the alarm sounded.

She Saw Luce. Maggie Anderson, a domestic, of 539 Penn avenue, swore to having left the house at 8.50 o'clock to post a letter, and on her return, being startled while passing the building where the fire occurred by the sudden appearance of Luce from the side door.

William Newhart, 13 years old, of 524 Oakford court; Louis Storms, aged 12 years, of 322 Linden street; Joseph Sampson, 332 Kressler court; George Klingsmith, 308 Kressler court; Fred Beck, 524 Wyoming avenue, each employed in the Scranton Knitting company's works, individually testified to having seen Luce within a block of the building at 9 o'clock. One of the boys bought a gallon of kerosene oil at Luce's request the day preceding the fire. Luce, she said, ordered the boy to wipe some machinery with kerosene, but there was no kerosene in the can. It was the custom of two of the boys to sweep the place after the hands had stopped work, but on the night of the fire, after they had begun sweeping, they were ordered by Luce to stop. The usual hour for quitting work had been 6 o'clock, but that night the hands were dismissed an hour earlier.

Detective McSweeney's Story. Detective McSweeney occupied the stand from 5.15 o'clock until three-quarters of an hour later. He said in part:

"I investigated the cause of the fire upon request of a number of insurance

men. I talked with Luce several times and received from him and his father every act of assistance possible. He had \$2,500 insurance on machinery and stock.

"Luce told me he dined at the Windsor the night of the fire, was at the factory with Bateman from 7 to 8 o'clock, when they left the building and saw Anthony Howley and a stranger in Howley Bros' store. Luce said he went to his office on Lackawanna avenue, wrote several letters and on his way to the postoffice met Bateman, mailed the letters, and at 9.05 o'clock started out Washington avenue for his home in Green Ridge.

"The defendants were arrested on Friday and the next day Bateman said he had an 'opinion' who set the building on fire. When I asked him who he referred to, he said 'John S. Luce.' He said he met Luce by appointment at the building the night of the fire and after waiting fifteen or twenty minutes at the Mulberry street entrance went up stairs where he found Luce in the dark. Bateman said that on the day before Luce had asked him about the combustible qualities of waste and gas and that he (Bateman) believed Luce had some hidden motive in wanting to meet him the night in question. Once Bateman told me his meeting with Luce near the postoffice was between 9 and 10 o'clock; again he said it was about 9 o'clock.

Asked for Bateman's Discharge. Mr. Scragg asked for his client's discharge on the plea of insufficient evidence. Mr. Horn announced that his client had no evidence to offer, but that the prosecution's case had been a case of mere suspicion and not strong enough to warrant sending the charge to court.

Mr. O'Brien, for the prosecution, argued that the evidence showed incrimination to begin with and that the testimony was more than circumstantial against each of the defendants. Alderman Fuller without deliberation committed the defendants to jail.

Instructions not to converse with anyone about the case were given. Bateman by his counsel. Before leaving the court room with Detective Roche Bateman asked for a Bible to take to jail. Mr. Scragg said that bail for Bateman will be furnished by a former employer, of Williamstown, Dauphin county.

Cornell Glee Club. The pictures of the Cornell Glee, Banjo and Mandolin clubs now around town show about the same faces as last year. Manager Hillier promises a concert much better even than the one of last season. Dec. 21 the clubs will appear at the Frothingham. Christmas carols appropriate to the occasion have been prepared for scores. It is said the collegians sing these much better than the English choir boys.

Hon. John Graham, of Wilkes-Barre, and General Manager Beeten, of the Scranton Traction company, are conducting a lively canvass in their contest for diamond ring. The proceeds of the contest will go to the Church of the Sacred Heart, of Plains.

Where Shall I Go. To buy a Xmas present? Davidow Bros., of course; because they have the largest stock and their prices without doubt are the lowest in the city.

Great variety of Bleds, Clipper Wagons and Doll Carriages. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

A New Fruit Knife. Something new. Never before introduced in the city. Novelties in fruit knives at Davidow Bros.

Standard Diaries for 1895. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

Beautiful Assortment of Sterling Silver rings, 25c. Davidow Bros.

The \$40,000 School House. for Columbia avenue has been let and will be commenced immediately. There are still a few more lots left at a low price. Arthur Frothingham, Office, Theater Lobby.

Oliver Forks. Brush and Comb, Manicure, Toilet and Shaving Sets. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

NOVELTIES FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

Books, Booklets, Art Calendars and Xmas Goods of all descriptions. High Class Framing a specialty.

PRATT'S, Lackawanna Ave. 312

SOMETHING NEW IN WATCHES

A Solid Gold Watch Movement and the Smallest Watch Made in America. The factories of the Dueber Watch Case Manufacturing Company and the Hampden Watch Company, at Canton, O., are by far the most complete establishments in the world, devoted to the manufacture of high grade watch movements and watch cases. The mechanical equipment of these factories is of the finest quality, and its experienced workmen are not surpassed by any manufacturing establishment in any line. Every resource in this magnificent plant is utilized and every effort concentrated in the single direction of making watch movements and watch cases as nearly perfect as lies within human power. The seventeen jeweled watches manufactured by these companies, and first put upon the market some four years ago, have now a national reputation among railroad men and others who must have accurate time. The latest production of these factories is the smallest ladies' watch made in America, and the only watch movement which has ever been made out of solid gold. This magnificent little watch is called "The Four Hundred." It is "The Four Hundred" in name as well as in quality, and is sold only in 14-karat and 18-karat solid gold cases. Any lady who is the proud possessor of one of these gems has not only a thing of beauty, but one of the most useful articles money can procure. These watches being of superior quality can only be found in first-class jewelry stores.

Pickle Forks, Oyster Forks, nut picks, nut crackers. Davidow Bros.

Santa Claus couldn't make a wiser choice of a gift for his little friends than to present them those funny, droll and mirth-commanding "Queer People." All parts can now be had at The Tribune business office.

We sell You a fine boy's watch for \$2.75, in stem set and wind, open face, warranted. Davidow Bros.

A Great Strike. Sure to come and close at hand. Davidow Bros. clocks are constantly striking the hour and half hour.

Davis' Automatic Inkstands. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

Sugar Shells 37c. Triple-plate Rogers Bros. Davidow Bros.

Those Queer People. There's No Better Christmas Present for the Little Ones. All parts on sale now at THE TRIBUNE business office.

TOO BUSY TO SAY MUCH.

BUT If you can't make up your mind what to select look in our windows

Jewelry At Its Real Value.

Our Wonderful Low Prices Seem to SUIT

REXFORD JEWELRY CO., 213 Lackawanna Ave.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

You intend to make some one a Christmas Present.

DO Not Worry

Do not lose your temper, but make a bee line for

China Hall

As they have such an array of Goods suitable for Gift Making that it will be a pleasure instead of a worry to make such selection.

SILVERWARE, DINNER, TEA and TOILET SETS.

Bric-a-Brac, Cut Glass, Lamps, Tables, Chafing Dishes, 5 O'Clock Teas, etc.

WEICHEL & MILLAR 116 Wyoming Ave.

EVERYTHING NEW.

NEW STORE, NEW GOODS, NEW PRICES.

LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE

IF You buy your shoes of Schank you wear the latest styles.

SCHANK'S Shoe Store 410 Spruce St.

A SUGGESTION

Of course you are in a quandary what to give for a Xmas present. Now your mind will be greatly relieved by visiting either of our stores, where our lines of Bath Robes, Canes, Umbrellas, Leather Goods, Neckwear, Gloves, Suspenders and Night Shirts are complete.

Our assortment is certainly the largest and best in the city.

THE Christian, HATTER 412 SPRUCE ST. AND 205 LACK. AVE.

REEFERS. REEFERS

LARGE VARIETY, GOOD STYLES AND LOW PRICES.

We want to show you our MEN'S STRICTLY ALL WOOLEN \$10 SUIT

Colors, Grey, Black and Oxford Mixed.

MARTIN & DELANY,

Custom Tailors and Clothiers,

WYOMING AVE.

THE FASHION

308 Lackawanna Avenue.

GREAT REVOLUTION IN PRICES.

MILLINERY DEPARTMENT

Felt Hats, worth 49c., for 25c
Velvet Hats Trimmed with Jet and Tips, worth \$5.00, for \$2.98
Frosted Egrets, worth 39c., for 15c

CLOAK DEPARTMENT

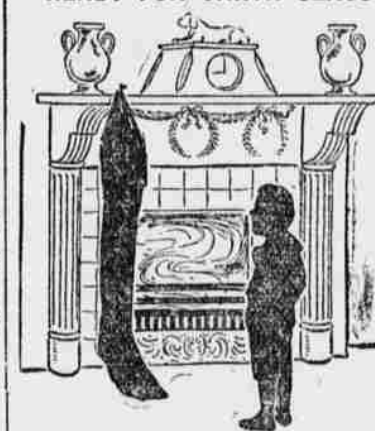
New and desirable goods in Jackets, Plush and Cloth Capes, Fur Capes, etc., arriving daily and are sold at the Lowest Cash Prices.

HAIR CHAINS FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

Something nice for a Christmas Gift. Chains made out of your own or some dear friend's hair. Leave orders as early as possible.

E. M. HETZEL, - 230 Lacka. Ave.

READY FOR SANTA CLAUS



and is taking no chances on not having a receptacle large enough to hold a pair of those Skates that he saw at C. M. FLOREY'S, or even a sled. We have a nice line of Games, Magic Lantern, Pocket Cutlery, Sweaters, Air Guns, etc., for the Holidays.

222 WYOMING AVENUE, Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

MATTHEWS BROS.' NEW STORE,

133 FRANKLIN AVE.

We are now doing a general Drug, Paint and Oil business at the above location, during the erection of our store building recently destroyed by fire.

New Goods

IN EVERY DEPARTMENT.

OUR TELEPHONE CALL, NO. 222. All orders promptly filled and delivered to any part of the city.

133 FRANKLIN AVENUE.

FOR THE HOLIDAY TRADE

We Are Showing Complete Lines of Silks.

Ki Kia (wash), Fancy Taffetas (for waists) Haskell's Black.

DRESS PATTERNS AND SUITINGS

Fancy Handkerchiefs and Fans, Pocket Books, Kid Gloves and Gents' Furnishing Goods.

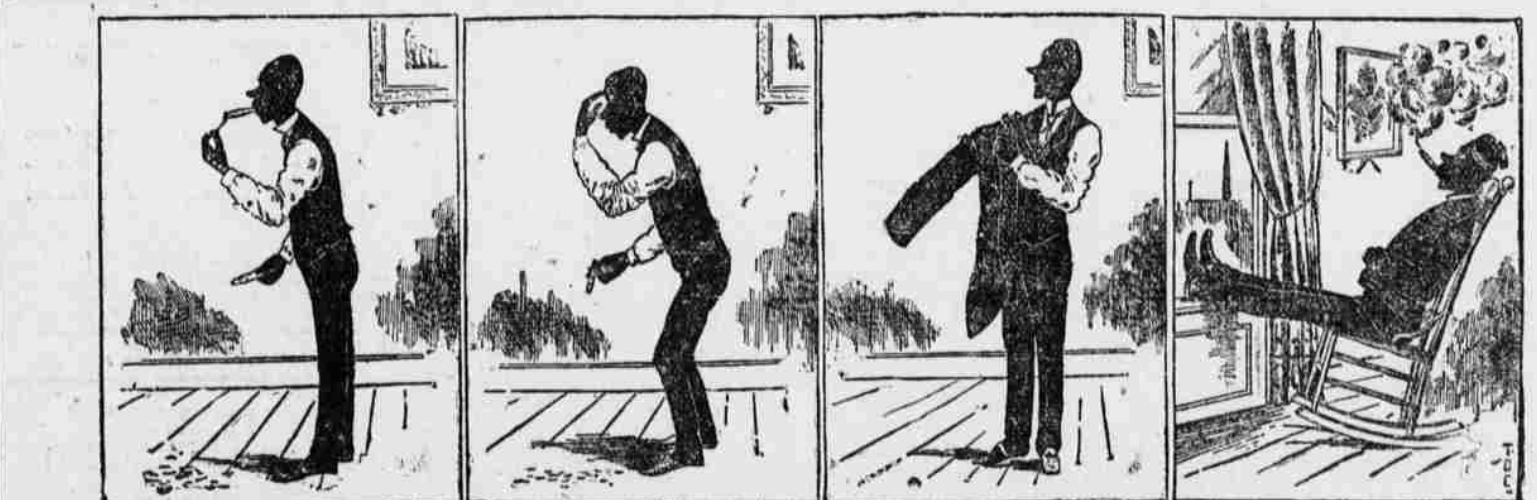
Store Open Evenings.

MEARS & HAGEN,

415 LACKAWANNA AVENUE.

"TO SAVE TIME IS TO LENGTHEN LIFE." DO YOU VALUE LIFE? THEN USE

SAPOLIO



A STORY WITHOUT WORDS.

We've had a big trade on Smoking Jackets during the past week. Folks say our prices are lower than other dealers ask. Our styles are all new. They make very appropriate gifts. Materials are Flannels, Cheviots, Tricots, Velvets and Imported Figured Silks, lined with Silks and Satins, some quilted, others plain. Drop in and look at 'em. No charge for that.



We're pleasing an army of boys with our gift presentation. A Pair of Genuine Steel Club Skates accompanies each Suit, Overcoat or Reefer.

PENN CLOTHING AND SHOE HOUSE

137 AND 139 PENN AVENUE,

S. L. GALLEN

Complete Outfitters.

Norton's Holiday Display
Is now ready for inspection at the temporary new store, 15 Wyoming ave., near the Globe. Books, the best of gifts, In our usual large variety, To please all tastes and conditions All the desirable new looks As well as the standard ones In various styles of dress Suitable for Christmas presents, Booklets, calendars and diaries, Prayer books and hymn books, Bibles for pulpits, teachers, the home. The pocket and Sabbath schools, Fancy stationery and art goods, Leather lap tablets, wallets, Portmonies, Gold pens, pencil cases and novelties, All at popular low prices. Open evenings until Christmas.

At NORTON'S

A Foe to Dyspepsia

GOOD BREAD USE THE Snow White FLOUR And always have Good Bread.

MANUFACTURED AND FOR SALE TO THE TRADE BY The Weston Mill Co.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS

THE GENUINE POPULAR Punch Cigars HAVE THE INITIALS G. B. & CO. IMPRINTED ON EACH CIGAR. Garney, Brown & Co. Mfr's Court House Square.

PERMANENT CURE OF RUPTURE

All forms of Hernia a specialty. Well known Scranton physicians in charge. SCRANTON GERMAN RUPTURE CURE CO., LIM., 203 Washington Avenue.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Bateson is in New York for a few days.

Paul Gardner, of Honesdale, was in the city yesterday.

John J. Tierney, of Binghamton, was in this city yesterday on a business trip.

Miss Agnes Callahan, of Lackawanna avenue, spent yesterday with friends in Pittston.

Miss Annie Everett, of South Orange, N. J., is visiting C. W. Thompson, of Sanderson avenue.

Mrs. H. C. Dewey, of Pittston, visited her mother, Mrs. Lizzie T. Beane, of Delaware street.

Attorney Charles McCarthy, of Wilkes-Barre, was a visitor in town for a few hours yesterday.

General Manager J. R. Beeten returned to this city yesterday after a week's stay in Philadelphia on important business.

William Connell and J. M. Harris were registered at the Stratford and Andrew P. Bedford at the Girard hotel in Philadelphia, Monday.

Attorney H. C. Reynolds, of this city, and Miss Adelaide C. Scott, of Wayne, will be married on Thursday evening at that place. The following Scrantonians will be present: Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Clemons, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Rice, Mr. and Mrs. P. P. Christ, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Swan, Dr. Wardell A. Colborn, Stephen Rice and R. H. Patterson.

Fine Clocks. We are offering A handsome mantel clock; this would make a beautiful Xmas gift. Half-hour strike. Cathedral going. Warranted an A-1 timekeeper for \$5.00. Others charge \$3.50. Davidow Bros.

Gold Pens and Pencils. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

Children's Fine Solid Gold Rings 50c., at Davidow Bros.

Prang's Non-Poisonous Paints, just the thing for the children's Xmas presents, at Stewart's, Y. M. C. A. building.

Bronze Ornaments. Fine selection. Prices low. Quality best. Latest designs. Davidow Bros.

Oxford, International, Bagster and Holman's Bibles. PRATT'S BOOK STORE.

Are You Going to Buy an Opera Glass? Dr. Shimberg is selling now fine pearl Lamier opera glasses for \$2.50, worth \$7.50, 305 Spruce street.

DIED.

FOGARTY.—In Dunmore, Dec. 18, 1894, Martin, the bright and interesting little child of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Fogarty, of Grove street, Dunmore, and grandchild of Thomas Quinn. Funeral Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 o'clock. Interment in Hyde Park cemetery.

BEST.—In Scranton, Dec. 15, 1894, Mamie Best, aged 7 years, 10 months and 13 days. She was a daughter of William Best, of 1206 Stone avenue. Funeral at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.